1991-2000 respectively. However, the collection in excise up to January, 2001 is higher by 12% over the last year.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Filing of Income Tax Returns

614. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons in the cities of Karnataka covered under six economic criteria for filing of Income Tax returns in Form 2C who have filed returns for the assessment year 1999-2000;

(b) whether possessing a telephone is one of the criteria for filing the Income Tax returns in Form 2C; and

(c) whether Government would delete possessing telephone from the above rule since telephone is a necessity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The number of persons who have filed returns in Form 2C for the assessment year 1999-2000 in the Karnataka and Goa region is 51,044.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Suggestions have been received for modifications in the criterion relating to subscription to a telephone. These suggestions are being examined in the current budgetary exercise, and the decision of the Government thereon will be reflected in the Budget proposals.

Circulating of one Thousand Rupee Notes

†615. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-items which appeared in the "Dainik Jagaran" of 26th January, 2001 under the caption "Hazaar ka note chalan mein na aane ka mukhya karan kalabaazari"; if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.